

INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT

Soviet Military/Arms: Thuringia

25X1C

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

25X1X

1. Weimar

a. Weimar continues to be the SMA Thuringia headquarters under General Kolesnichenko. Various ministries moved to Erfurt in December 1947. Those remaining are the Ministry for Commerce and Supply and the office of Minister-President Eggerath.

b. In general, Weimar's troops do not appear to be combat types and they are not equipped with heavy weapons.

c. Approximately 4,500 MVD men occupy Lützkendorf Barracks; 700 MVD troops are in the Wilhelmsberg Barracks; and there are approximately 700 more in the Luftwaffe Barracks at Nohra (J46). Aproxos of MVD, an index is maintained of mail addressed to the other zones of Germany; anyone who has written three or more letters to those zones is automatically placed on a MVD watch list.

d. The regulation preventing the use of former professional state policemen has been ignored since autumn 1947 and trained NCO's of the former regular army are being given preference in state police jobs. These men undergo special training at Erfurt, including the use of heavy machine guns and the Panzerfaust, and are issued the carbine 98. Field training under simulated combat conditions is termed "Schwarzwildjagden". In early January 1948, 500 men of such special police units were sent to Buch, northeast of Berlin, for additional training at the request of the Central Administration of the Interior.

e. Weimar and Erfurt are collecting centers for dependents being returned to the USSR from Thuringia. Estimates such traffic at four trains per week, each with 25 persons and five freight cars. Some such trains proceed eastward via Breslau-Krakow, others go via Malytsk.

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CLASSIFICATION

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. [redacted] report the appearance on the Weimar-Erfurt Autobahn, in early December, of two unusually large vehicles of an unknown type. The concrete surface of the road was damaged by these vehicles at various points, and just before reaching the Mellingen (J56) viaduct one of them skidded on the grass strip. The area was immediately blocked off in a five kilometer radius, but not before the following details were observed: the vehicle was approximately 8-10 meters wide and 15 meters long, with slanted sides. Instead of a single continuous track, the vehicle has three separate tracks, each on four rollers. Two guns were observed, but not their types. Each vehicle carried 60 to 80 infantrymen with 18 machine guns and 5 light AT guns. Officers directing the blocking-off operations are alleged to have said that three such vehicles could form a combat group which could be employed as a hedgehog defense unit.
2. Parts of the Rhön area near the towns of Lengerfeld (J55?), Hohenfelden (J45) and Weila (unlocated) have been declared restricted areas since 1 January 1948. FDJ ski courses being given in the area have been halted. The area is patrolled daily by U-2 planes.
3. Guns and tanks which had been bricked up in the quarries in the Neudietendorf-Schmira-Ingersleben area (J26) were removed in mid-December.
4. Mines of the nitrogen plants in Ellrich (D03), Niedersachswerfen (D13) and Glückauf (unlocated) have been occupied by new engineering units.

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